Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

Inclusive Classrooms Provide Language Boost

New study on preschoolers and special education

"...study finds that preschoolers with disabilities who attended mainstream classes with highly-skilled peers were using language on par with their classmates without disabilities." To learn more, ***News Article***

Check out this Video on Inclusion

Learning Together, showcases students from Prince George's County and their views on having a student with a disability included in their classroom. ***Watch Video***

AUGUST 2014

What is an Inclusive Education?

The IDEA requires that students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21, receive a free and appropriate public education with the services and supports necessary to be educated in the least restrictive environment.

Meaning, to the greatest extent possible, students with disabilities should have access to and make progress in the general education curriculum, taught alongside their non-disabled peers.

In order to facilitate the successful inclusion of students with disabilities, school systems need adequate funding, teachers and staff need professional development and technical assistance and parents and students need to be involved in the development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For more about inclusion and resources on how to advocate for inclusive school settings, visit Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education's ***MCIE Website***

Leading the IEP

Research shows increased achievement for student led IEPs

All students regardless of their age or disability can be involved in the development of their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

There are many levels of student involvement, including a student leading his or her own IEP meeting.

Research has shown that students who actively participate throughout the IEP process have higher levels of school engagement and are more likely to achieve their academic and personal goals.

For more information about student led IEPs visit, MCIE's webpage, ***Student Choice, Student Voice***

For student led IEP materials such as informational videos, student/family checklists and templates for facilitating meetings, visit

What's Your Position?

Special Education Position Paper by the Council

The Council develops position papers to provide a concise overview of important issues impacting the lives of Marylanders with developmental disabilities and their families.

They include background information important to understanding the issues, data and action steps.

To learn more and get involved, read the Council's position paper on *Special Education and Early Intervention: Decreasing the School Readiness and Achievement Gap*

Gearing up for School!

Click below for a diverse list of inclusive education resources for families and professionals.

Maryland Learning Links
A resource for educators and families about issues related to special education and early intervention in Maryland.

For information on MD's Infant & Toddlers Program, how to develop the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP), and more visit, *MD Learning Links*

Parents' Place of Maryland
Resources and services for families of children with any kind of disability or special health care need. Parents' Place works to ensure families have the knowledge and assistance they need to make informed decisions that support their child's health, education, and development.

Parents' Place provides peer support to families, and information and education to families, professionals and the community at large.

For a full list of programs and resources visit, *PPMD*

Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC)
A legal advocacy organization, that advances the civil rights of people with disabilities. MDLC provides free legal services to Marylanders of any age with all types of disabilities.

To access MDLC's**Special Education Rights: A Handbook for Maryland Families & Professionals** and other guides visit, *MDLC*

410-767-3670
1-800-305-6441
MD Relay: 711
info@md-council.org

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Center for Parent Information and Resources

A comprehensive list of resources from NICHCY, the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities. Use the website's QuickFind link to access an array of topics from Behavior, IDEA, K-12 issues and more. *CPIR*